



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Senator William X. Wall Experiment Station

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Secretary

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March 3, 2008

RE: Laboratory Certification Office Policy on Chemistry Proficiency Testing (Policy # WES-08-001)

Dear Laboratory Director or Other Interested Party:

Enclosed is the updated Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Laboratory Certification Office (LCO) Policy on Chemistry Proficiency Testing. This policy replaces Policy # WES-07.001.

This revised policy reflects recent changes to Massachusetts' regulations for the *Certification and Operation of Environmental Analysis Laboratories* at 310 CMR 42.00. The effective date of the revised regulations is October 5, 2007.

This policy clarifies proficiency test (PT) requirements for analytes added to the LCO scope of certification and updates regulation citations. The policy also includes the regulatory requirement to have available and retain all of the raw data, including instrument printouts or equivalent electronic data, for all PT analyses for a period of five years.

The revised policy specifies that to obtain or maintain certification for semi-volatile acid extractables in non-potable water and semi-volatile base/neutrals in non-potable water, laboratories must achieve acceptable analytical results for at least 80% of the analytes contained in the PT samples.

The revised policy specifies that potable water perchlorate PT samples must be whole-volume samples prepared at low levels in a common mixed anion solution. Laboratories seeking certification for the analysis of perchlorate in non-potable water samples must analyze wastewater PT samples acceptable to the Department.

The revised policy also defines recent PT studies as those taking place within the last eighteen months.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, please contact Ann Marie Allen, Director of the LCO, at 978-682-5237, ext. 333.

Sincerely,

Oscar C. Pancorbo, Ph.D.
Division and Station Director
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William X. Wall Experiment Station

Policy # WES-08.001
Cover Letter

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